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B3 an inner cover layer disposed on said core, said inner cover layer having a Shore D hardness of about 60 or more, said inner cover layer comprising an ionomeric resin including no more than 16% by weight of an alpha, beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid and having a modulus of from about 15,000 to about 70,000 psi; and

an outer cover layer disposed about said inner cover layer, said outer cover layer having a thickness of from about 0.01 to about 0.07 inches, and comprising a polyurethane material.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application and consideration of the response are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4 to 6, 8 to 11, and 15 to 17 are currently pending, and claims 6 and 11 have been amended.

The Final Office Action mailed September 10, 2002 addressed claims 1, 4 to 6, 8 to 11, and 15 to 17. Claims 1, 4 to 6, 8 to 11, and 15 to 17 were rejected.

A Response to the Final Office Action was previously submitted on September 19, 2002.

In a telephonic interview with the Examiner on September 25, 2002, Examiner Gorden requested that claim 6 be amended to show the entire claim. In a previous amendment submitted on April 16, 2002, the last line of claim 6 was not shown in the Examiner's clean copy of the claims, but it was shown in the marked up version of the claims. Per the Examiner's request, claim 6 has been rewritten to show the entire claim. Claim 11 has been amended to recite the flexural modulus range of the inner cover layer, as recited in the claims as filed in this application, per the Examiner's request.

Additionally, the specification has been amended to recite the preferred Shore D hardness (64 or less) of the outer cover layer for non-ionomeric elastomers. Support for this amendment may be found in the original claims filed in a parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/556,237, filed on November 9, 1995. A copy of the original claims in the parent application was faxed to Examiner Gorden, per her request, on September 25, 2002.

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Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of each of the presently rejected claims. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 4 to 6, 8 to 11, and 15 to 17, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 18, line 6 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

Other soft, relatively low modulus non-ionic thermoplastic elastomers may also be utilized to produce the outer cover layer as long as the non-ionic thermoplastic elastomers produce the playability and durability characteristics desired without adversely effecting the enhanced spin characteristics produced by the low acid ionomer resin compositions. Preferably, the non-ionic thermoplastic elastomers have a Shore D hardness of 64 or less. These include, but are not limited to thermoplastic polyurethanes such as: Texin[®] thermoplastic polyurethanes from Mobay Chemical Co. and the Pellethane[®] thermoplastic polyurethanes from Dow Chemical Co.; Ionomer/rubber blends such as those in Spalding U.S. Patents 4,986,545; 5,098,105 and 5,187,013; and, Hytrel[®] polyester elastomers from DuPont and Pebax[®] polyetheramides from Elf Atochem S.A.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 6 and 11 have been amended as follows:

6. (TWICE AMENDED) A golf ball comprising:

a core:

an inner cover layer disposed about said core, said inner cover layer having a Shore D hardness of at least 60, said inner cover layer comprising a blend of two or more ionomeric resins, each containing no more than 16% by weight of an alpha, beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid; and

an outer cover layer disposed on said inner cover layer, said outer cover layer having a thickness of from about 0.01 to about 0.07 inches, and comprising a polyurethane material.

11. (TWICE AMENDED) A golf ball comprising:

a core:

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an inner cover layer disposed on said core, said inner cover layer having a Shore D hardness of about 60 or more, said inner cover layer comprising an ionomeric resin including no more than 16% by weight of an alpha, beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid and having a modulus of from [greater than] about 15,000 to about 70,000 psi; and

an outer cover layer disposed about said inner cover layer, said outer cover layer having a thickness of from about 0.01 to about 0.07 inches, and comprising a polyurethane material.